

## Support battalion tests skills in vehicle recovery

Story and photos by Spc. Jeanine Kinville, 1AD PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Getting dirty was the least of their problems when it came to the instructors and students at the 123rd Main Support Battalion's Service Academy Competition at Baghdad International Airport May 21.

A week of vehicle recovery training culminated in a test of skill and speed for the two-Soldier teams from B, C, D and E companies.

"This last day of the class is the physical competition portion that demonstrates what the students learned in the classroom and how well they do hands-on in all three of the events," said Sgt. Jason Williams, C Co. recovery section noncommissioned officer in charge and organizer of the Service Academy.

Williams is the primary instructor among the three other Soldiers in the battalion's vehicle recovery team.

"They are requested for specifically on missions," said 1st Lt. Evnan Rodriguez, the C Co. maintenance support platoon leader.



**Spc. James Fasthorse, left, a light wheel vehicle mechanic and his partner, Pfc. Michael Wilson, a quartermaster and chemical repair specialist, prepare to tow a truck from the mire pit during the 123rd Main Support Battalion Recovery Academy Competition May 21 at Baghdad International Airport. Both Soldiers are with E Company, 123 MSB.**

"They have conducted over 200 missions with the Marines, the 82nd Airborne Division and other units around BIAP. My guys have taken fire and pulled casualties out of vehicles."

The weeklong training covered preventive maintenance and service checks for five-ton and Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks. It taught students how to tow disabled vehicles and conduct block and tackle -- a rigging procedure that lets students know how much pull they will need to turn a vehicle from its side with a HEMTT.

"If we don't do maintenance on our vehicles, it's not just our lives. Other people depend on us to take them out of the zone," said Spc. Alexander Trujillo, vehicle recovery team instructor and HEMTT operator.

The competition was divided into three events.

The first event is the mire pit.

"A truck is submerged in water and stuck in the mud with two casualties (inside)," said Rodriguez. "The team has to recover them before towing the vehicle out with a five-ton wrecker."

The next event was using a HEMTT's onboard retrieval system to tow a disabled five-ton truck, said Spc. Edward Saks, the recovery team's five-ton driver.

The final event was extracting two

casualties from a five-ton and hooking up a tow bar to another disabled five-ton.

There were some difficulties, but Spc. Daniel Alvarado, an instructor and a track vehicle mechanic in C Co. said, "We did our best and tried to communicate with each other. It's a great training class and a great morale booster."

Throughout the competition, combat lifesaver skills are combined with all tasks.

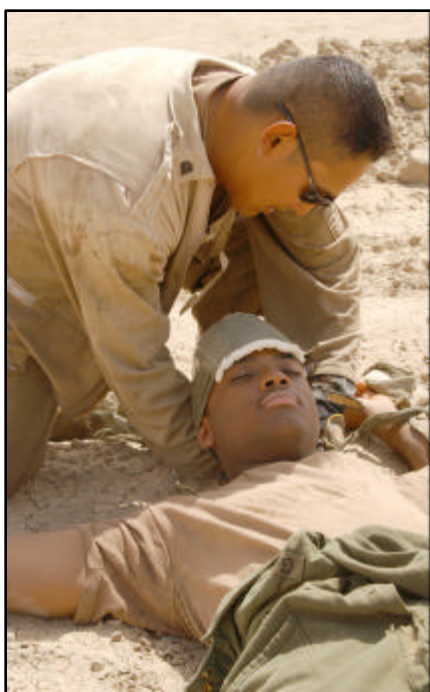
"When you throw in the first aid, it keeps the recovery personnel thinking in two different directions at once," Williams said.

With the teams all having completed the course, Wilson and Spc. James Fasthorse of E Company took away the day's title as best recovery team.

"We learned how to pull stuff out of the mud and how to recover different vehicles in all types of situations," said Fasthorse, a light-wheeled vehicle mechanic. "If something breaks down, I can recover it in a timelier manner."

Despite the outcome of the competition, everyone had a learning experience.

"This relates to everyone out there," said Rodriguez. "Every vehicle that they recover is another vehicle they can use to accomplish the battalion's mission."



**Spc. Daniel Alvarado, a track vehicle mechanic in C Company, 123rd Main Support Battalion, treats his casualty's head wound with during the battalion's Recovery Academy Competition May 21 at Baghdad International Airport.**



## Quote of the Day...

*"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."*

-- Muhammad Ali [Cassius Clay] (born 1942), American prizefighter



The Task Force 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division band performs during the farewell tattoo for Col. Jackson L. Flake III, the task force chief of staff, Tuesday.

## Oddly Enough...

### Calif. Man Sentenced for Attacking Parrot

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. - A man who attacked his pet macaw, breaking its beak and leg, must complete 120 days of community service and take anger management classes, a judge ruled Friday.

Anthony James Ellis, 53, had been sentenced to 120 days in jail but Orange County Superior Court Judge Susanne Shaw said she would allow him to complete the sentence as community service.

Witnesses testified that Ellis punched the bird — named "Johnny" — and slammed its head against the deck of his boat outside the Newport Harbor Elks Lodge, where the parrot was the mascot.

Ellis testified that the bird, which he had owned for 11 years, was injured after it bit him on the arm and he fell down, and that witnesses outside the lodge misunderstood what they saw.

## Chaplain's Thought for the Day...

### Effort

I've always been told that "anything worth having is worth working hard for". Gloria Pitzer had a similar thought in mind when she said, "About the only thing that comes to us without effort is old age". So keep up the effort, it will pay off in the end.

## Today in History...

(Historynet.com)

**1815**

Napoleon defeats the Prussians at the Battle of Ligny.

**1858**

Abraham Lincoln, in accepting the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate in Illinois, declares that, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

**1864**

The siege of Petersburg and Richmond begins after a moonlight skirmish.

**1925**

France accepts a German proposal for a security pact.

**1932**

The ban on Nazi storm troopers is lifted by the von Papen government in Germany.

**1935**

President Roosevelt's New Deal legislation is passed by the House of Representatives.

**1940**

French Chief of State, Henri Petain asks for an armistice with Germany.

**1952**

*Anne Frank: Diary of a Young Girl* is published in the United States.

**1955**

The U.S. House of Representatives votes to extend Selective Service until 1959.

**1961**

Ballet star Rudolf Nureyev defects from the Soviet Union while in Paris.

**1971**

An El Greco sketch, "The Immaculate Conception," stolen in Spain 35 years earlier, is recovered in New York City by the FBI.

**1977**

Leonid Brezhnev is named president of the Soviet Union.



# For your Information...

## 8TH FINANCE KEY DATES AND ACTIONS

### 16 JUN to 10 JUL:

BIAP Check Cashing & Casual Pay

M-W-F 0900-1700 hrs

**IRON  
FINANCE!**

### 17 JUN:

All Paying Agents must Clear  
8<sup>th</sup> Finance Bn

POC- CPT Miller @ 551-9308

\*Early Clearance is Highly Encouraged

### 26 JUN:

Last Day for Turn-In of 365 BOG Paperwork

*Include Soldiers Eligible through 30 Jun*



## Reenlistment Bonus Incentives continue.

The Army continues to pay soldiers for remaining part of the team. Recently, some bonuses have been retroactive as far back as March 18, 2003.

If a Soldier reenlisted between March 18 and Sept. 18, 2003 for either option E1 (Regular Army) or E2 (Current station stabilization) and did not receive a bonus, he or she should contact their Career Counselor and see if they qualify for the bonus.

The most current update to the Selective Reenlistment Bonus program is MILPER Message 04-163 dated 05/14/2004.

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2004				As of: Tuesday, June 15, 2004 5:51:26 PM	
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS
0:00	SPORTSCENTER				HEADLINE NEWS
0:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
1:00	ESPN25 - WHO'S #1 (BEST TEAMS)	4 QTRS	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - CHEETAHS NEVER PROSPER	SESAME STREET	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
1:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVYT): - MERMAID MAN III / SQUIRREL JOKES		CBS EVENING NEWS
2:00	ESPN25 - THE HEADLINES	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SWEET SEYMOUR SKINNER'S BADASSSSSS SONG	BLUE'S CLUES - JOE'S FIRST DAY (PT. 1)	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN
2:30		NBA HANGTIME	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - GREAT EXPECTATIONS	NBA HANGTIME	
3:00	TUESDAY NIGHT FIGHTS - SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: OMAR SHEKA VS MANU NTOH	NBA - FINALS GM 5: LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ DETROIT PISTONS	SUPER MILLIONAIRE (TVG): - EPISODE 3	NBA - FINALS GM 5: LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ DETROIT PISTONS	HANNITY & COLMES
4:00			STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - TIMESCAPE		THE NEWSHOUR
5:00	SPORTSCENTER		MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 2		BET NIGHTLY NEWS
5:30		ESPNEWS	LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - EVERETT ALVAREZ	JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):	NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT
6:00	NBA FINALS LATE NIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - VIETNAM SPECIAL OPERATIONS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	LARRY KING LIVE
6:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):	
6:30	BASEBALL TONIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS			
7:00	ESPNEWS	SESAME STREET	BREAKING AWAY		NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN
7:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):	
7:30	TOTALLY NASCAR				
8:00	SPORTSCENTER	BLUE'S CLUES - JOE'S FIRST DAY (PT. 1)		BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - BUG BEARD	PAULA ZAHN NOW
8:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - THE RETURN OF TECHNOVIA MONUMENTAL CRISIS!	
9:00	MONSTER TRUCK SHOW - MONSTER JAM WORLD	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - CHEETAHS NEVER PROSPER	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVYT): - EPISODE 10	NIGHTLINE
9:30			SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVYT): - MERMAID MAN III / SQUIRREL JOKES	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - JAMES ARMISTEAD	AFNEWS ON ASSIGNMENT
9:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):			
10:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SWEET SEYMOUR SKINNER'S BADASSSSSS SONG	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS
10:30			HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - GREAT EXPECTATIONS	HEADLINE NEWS	
10:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):			
11:00	SPORTSCENTER		SUPER MILLIONAIRE (TVG): - EPISODE 3	ESPNEWS	CNN DAYBREAK
11:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):			
11:30				PACIFIC REPORT	
12:00	MLB - INTERLEAGUE - OAKLAND ATHLETICS @ ST. LOUIS CARDINALS	HEADLINE NEWS	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - TIMESCAPE	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - CONSEQUENCES	THE O'REILLY FACTOR
12:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - ITS MAC-A-DEMIC	
13:00		TODAY	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 2	FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - WATER SACK BEETLE, ROACH AND WORM TRANSFERSPINNING LEDGE	GOOD MORNING AMERICA
13:30			LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - EVERETT ALVAREZ		
14:00			SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - VIETNAM SPECIAL OPERATIONS	THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE SHOWER	
15:00	SPORTSCENTER	BETWEEN THE LIONS (TVY): - BUG BEARD	BREAKING AWAY	PACIFIC REPORT	HEADLINE NEWS
15:30		TEAMO SUPREMO (TVY): - THE RETURN OF TECHNOVIA MONUMENTAL CRISIS!		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):	ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING
16:00	NBA FINALS LATE NIGHT	POPULAR MECHANICS FOR KIDS (TVYT): - EPISODE 10			THE EARLY SHOW
16:30	TOTALLY NASCAR	LIBERTY'S KIDS (TVG): - JAMES ARMISTEAD		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	
17:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	THE WILD THORNBERRIES (TVY): - CHEETAHS NEVER PROSPER		
17:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVYT): - MERMAID MAN III / SQUIRREL JOKES	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	
18:00	ESPNEWS	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - SWEET SEYMOUR SKINNER'S BADASSSSSS SONG	BIG	FOX NEWS LIVE
18:19	BASEBALL TONIGHT				
18:30		HEADLINE NEWS	HAPPY DAYS (TVG): - GREAT EXPECTATIONS		
19:00	NBA - FINALS GM 5: LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ DETROIT PISTONS	8 SIMPLE RULES FOR DATING MY TEENAGE DAUGHTER (TVPG): - CONSEQUENCES	SUPER MILLIONAIRE (TVG): - EPISODE 3		FOX NEWS LIVE
19:30		BERNIE MAC SHOW, THE (TVPG): - ITS MAC-A-DEMIC			
20:00		FEAR FACTOR (TV14): - WATER SACK BEETLE, ROACH AND WORM TRANSFERSPINNING LEDGE	STAR TREK: NEXT GENERATION (TVPG): - TIMESCAPE	PREDATOR	FOX NEWS LIVE
21:00		THE O.C. (TVPG): - THE SHOWER	MAIL CALL (TVPG): - EPISODE 2		HEADLINE NEWS
21:30	THE HOT LIST		LEGENDS OF AIRPOWER - EVERETT ALVAREZ		INSIDE POLITICS
22:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - VIETNAM SPECIAL OPERATIONS	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	
22:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		HEADLINE NEWS	AFNEWS ON ASSIGNMENT
23:00	AROUND THE HORN		BREAKING AWAY	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE
23:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):			